

DISPATCH

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO.

OBBA-16178

TO Chief, WE

DATE 2007

HEADQUARTERS FILE NO.

INFO Chief, SR

DECLASSIFIED

File No. 2585

FROM

Chief of []

DET CSN 43-43

DATE

8 September 1961

SUBJECT

REDSKIN/AERODYNAMIC/Operational
Proposed Use of AECASSOWARY/29 in Belgium

RE: "43-3" - (CHECK "X" ONE)

MARKED FOR INDEXING

X

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ACTION REQUIRED

Headquarters approval and comments requested

INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED
BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY

REFERENCE(S)

1. In consonance with this [] efforts to unearth and focus upon promising opportunities to obtain cooperative PI reporting sources inside the USSR, it is proposed that AECASSOWARY/29 of Project AERODYNAMIC spend up to six months TDY in Belgium, primarily to examine the REDSKIN potential in the Ukrainian field. In considering this proposal, it is pertinent to note that the [] currently has no liaison or agent assets competent to perform this task.

2. Since the background both of AECASSOWARY/29 and of his project is even better known at Headquarters than here, this dispatch dwells on the [] intended use of the agent rather than his past work or accomplishments.

3. In Belgium it is felt desirable to study at closer range than would be possible through the NIGHTINGALES or other [] assets just what Ukrainians married to Belgian spouses plan to travel to the Soviet Ukraine to visit relatives. Some 2,000 persons born in the Ukraine allegedly live in Belgium. In such a survey the [] would rely a great deal on AECASSOWARY/29's demonstrated ability to distinguish between high and low calibre agent material. Should he locate a suitable candidate for a promising REDSKIN trip, he would, under firm case officer supervision, handle the recruitment, training, briefing and debriefing without any AIS participation being obvious to the agent. He has done this type of operation before, successfully. REDSKIN agents on such missions believe that they are working solely for the AECASSOWARY group, the recruitment and PI interests of which largely coincide with those of KUBARK. If apprehended and broken under interrogation in the USSR, such an agent has no evidence implicating the AIS. This already-tested method of operation removes a substantial part of the flap risk inherent in REDSKIN missions and was the key reason why AECASSOWARY/29 was trained and used in 1960-61 in the EE and WE areas.

4. In addition to REDSKIN operations into the Ukraine, the [] would expect AECASSOWARY/29 to recruit and supervise one or two subagents here in Belgium to approach Soviet Ukrainian travelers here or Ukrainian members of the Soviet permanent party. The latter is, of course, a REDCAP function. Recruitment in place or, failing that, defection would be the primary aim of such operations, although CE leads would logically accrue as well.

5. The present proposal was briefly outlined to [] and discussed in detail with [] before the undersigned left Headquarters. Now all major ramifications of the proposal have been reviewed at the [] including the additional workload involved. This workload could be equitably shared by the undersigned, one other case officer and the Administrative officer without sacrificing any other work of equal or greater priority. AECASSOWARY/29's activities would be aimed at operational and PI objectives in the highest category of this [] RMD. Thus assumption of the added workload would appear to be a proper step.

6. Regarding cover, we would propose journalism, tourism and representation of the AECASSOWARY organization which can be used alternately, depending on the situation. It is our understanding that AECASSOWARY/29 has used all of these covers before and that they are legitimate and backstopped. In addition to these we might suggest some backstopped business or foundation cover selected by Headquarters which would provide a letterhead and an explanation for an income (or grant) permitting one to live in Belgium. We would in any case appreciate Headquarters' and the agent's own comments on cover. He has operated within the past year in three WE countries and thus could well have some pertinent comments.

Removed from Project Aerodynamic

CS Classification: 74-124-29/3

JGB # 69-425/83

Box: 2 / Fold: 18

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FORM
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USE PREVIOUS EDITION.
REPLACES FORMS
51-28, 51-28A AND 51-29
WHICH ARE OBSOLETE.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

X CONTINUED

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7. Regarding documentation, it is recommended that in addition to his document in lieu of passport, AECASSOWARY/29 be provided an additional non-U.S. travel document in a different name. It is understood that he had such documentation while working in Germany and that he used it for operational travel into the WE area. This [] is confident that liaison can arrange to have such documentation stamped into Belgium after Subject arrives using his U.S. document in lieu of passport. With two documents stamped in, he should have greater operational flexibility. If liaison should for any reason be unable to perform this stamping service, it could certainly be accomplished at MKTOPAZ.

8. On the subject of liaison, it should be noted that past discussion with the NIGHTINGALES re possible KUBARK PI exploitation of former Soviet citizens has revealed a willingness on their part to provide leads, but in actual practice they have not gone beyond collecting biographic data when we requested it. It is deemed wiser to inform NIGHTINGALES/2 and /35 in advance that AECASSOWARY/29 is to work for KUBARK in Belgium. They are very unlikely to have any objections. Moreover, AECASSOWARY/29's presence here will probably be of direct benefit to them in the CE field. If they are not informed in advance, it is quite conceivable that they might run across AECASSOWARY/29's activities and, unbeknownst to us, launch an investigation with possible minor embarrassment on both sides. Supplemental to AECASSOWARY/29's activities, the [] would like to be able to check names of interest with NIGHTINGALE officers and in NIGHTINGALE card files. This would be difficult without clearing his arrival to the extent of telling a few top NIGHTINGALE officers simply "he will be working on REDSKIN". For all these reasons, touching base with liaison would seem to be a help rather than a hindrance to AECASSOWARY/29's job of running what will be basically unilateral operations. No action will be taken with liaison until Headquarters approval has been received.

9. Granted he would be the only KUBARK-controlled agent working under non-official cover on Ukrainian PI operations in Europe and since, after the Chinese and Russians, Ukrainians comprise the next largest (about 42,000,000) nationality in the Communist bloc, this [] recognizes that his operational services may very well be required temporarily by another [] to work on important Ukrainian leads during his TDY in Belgium. Nevertheless, it is hoped that he will first be allowed to assess and exploit as thoroughly as possible opportunities within Belgium itself. Provided his activities here are fruitful and promising, conversion to PCS status will be requested.

10. Is it correct to assume that Project AERODYNAMIC will cover all relevant expenses?

7 September 1961

Distribution

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